Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 (Original). A composition for a fire-protection agent for materials, characterized in that its ingredients include ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers.

2 (Original). The composition of claim 1, characterized in that ceramic-forming additives included are at least two of the compounds disodium tetraborate, ammonium pentaborate, TiO_2, B_2O_3 and SiO_2, especially disodium tetraborate and ammonium pentaborate.

3 (Currently Amended). The composition of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that volume-formers included are gas-formers alone or in combination with acid-formers.

4 (Original). The composition of claim 3, wherein the gas-former is selected from the group consisting of NH_4Cl, $NaHCO_3$, melamine phosphate and melamine.

5 (Currently Amended). The composition of claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the acid-former is selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, aluminum sulfate, ammonium polyphosphate, ammonium monophosphate, and melamine-coated ammonium polyphosphate.

6 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising as further auxiliaries $KAlSO_4$, $Al(OH)_3$, aluminum sulfate, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol or tripentaerythritol.

7 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which is a paint based on polybutadiene resin, on melamine/formaldehyde and/or on radiation-curable coating material.

8 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising dispersants, fillers, pigments, defoamers, inorganic salts, flow control additives, crosslinkers and/or silane/siloxane-based silicone microemulsion.

9 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is added as an addition to carbon foam-formers.

10 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is in liquid form.

11 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein at least the ceramic-forming additives and the volume-formers are present in nanoparticle-coated form.

12 (Currently Amended). The composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein salts of the ceramic-forming additives and of the volume-formers exhibit a particle size of 1 to 50 μm.

13 (Currently Amended). A method of treating materials for fire protection, comprising applying a composition for a fire-protection agent for materials, characterized in that its ingredients include ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers ~~of any one of claims 1 to 12~~.

14 (Original). The method of claim 13, wherein the material in question is wood, steel, concrete or plastic.

15 (Currently Amended). A method of producing a fire-protection agent, characterized in that ceramic-forming additives are added to a ~~volume-developable~~ volume-forming fire-protection agent.

16 (Original). The method of claim 15, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives are ground with one another before being incorporated by dispersion into the fire-protection agent.

17 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~either of claims 15 and 16~~ claim 16, characterized in that grinding takes place in a ball mill in the absence of moisture for 0 to 3 days.

18 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15, characterized in that the ceramic-forming additives and the ~~volume-formers~~ volume-forming fire-protection agent are present as nanoparticle-coated salts.

19 (Currently Amended). The use of a composition for a fire-protection agent for materials, characterized in that its ingredients include ceramic-forming additives and volume-formers ~~of any one of claims 1 to 12~~ as fire protection for wood, steel, concrete, plastic.

20 (Currently Amended). The use of ceramic-forming additives and/or volume-formers, as defined in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 19, as an admixture to polymers, such as cable sheathings.

21 (Original). The use of ceramic-forming additives and/or volume-

formers for producing transparent coatings, these additives and/or volume-formers being present with particle sizes of 1 to 150 nm as nanoparticles.